

THE MORNING NEWS

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World mourns South Africa peace icon Mandela



No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

-Nelson Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - The world united Friday to mourn Nelson Mandela, the iconic South African anti-apartheid hero, as the people of his beloved rainbow nation marked his passing with flowers, songs and dance.

President Jacob Zuma announced a 10-day mourning period for Mandela, the founding father of modern South Africa and its first black leader, after he died late Thursday aged 95, surrounded by friends and family.

Barack Obama, America's first black president, will travel to South Africa next week, the White House said, joining a raft of world leaders for a huge December 10 memorial service.

Mandela's body will lie in state in Pretoria for three days after that before he receives a state burial on December 15 in his boyhood home of Qunu.

Ordinary South Africans across the country poured out onto the streets in a riot of colour, dance and song to celebrate the life of their beloved ex-leader known affectionately as Madiba.

In Cape Town, a crowd of thousands from all races and ages gathered for a multi-faith celebration at the site where Mandela made his first public speech after nearly three decades in apartheid jail.

With two giant panels of his picture hanging from the city hall, the sound of hymns, songs and prayers filled the air as did a round of chants with raised clenched fists that evoked Mandela's struggle for freedom.

"Tonight we stand in solidarity as the people of Cape Town -- black, white, coloured, Indian, all the religions together," said mayor Patricia De Lille.

And as his compatriots paid lively and emotional tributes to the revered former statesman, admirers from all walks of life around the world lauded Mandela's legacy and remembered key moments in the great man's life.

South Africa's archbishop emeritus Desmond Tutu, a fellow Nobel prize winner, praised Mandela as an "incredible gift that God gave us".

Fighting back tears, Tutu said his old friend was "a unifier from the moment he walked out of prison".

Mandela spent 27 years in an apartheid prison before becoming president and unifying his country with a message of reconciliation after the end of white minority rule. He shared the Nobel Peace Prize with South Africa's last white president, F.W. de Klerk, in 1993.

Palestinians and Israelis, Beijing and the Dalai Lama,

Washington and Tehran all paid heartfelt tribute to Mandela, describing him as one of the towering figures of the 20th century who inspired young and old with his fight for equality.

Obama led the global roll call of commemorations.

"We will not likely see the likes of Nelson Mandela again," the US leader said. "He achieved more than could be expected of any man."

Flags flew at half-mast in numerous countries, including the United States, France and Britain, and at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

In Paris, the Eiffel Tower lit up in green, red, yellow and blue to symbolise the South African flag, while India declared five days of mourning for a man the premier labelled "a true Gandhian".

And a Paris summit of some 40 African leaders was overshadowed by Mandela's death. An old associate, African Union Commission president Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, said Mandela "was a son who became larger than the continent".

South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane said the best way to remember Mandela was to free the African continent of poverty, unrest and disease.

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Obama to honor personal inspiration Mandela



WASHINGTON (AFP) - When US President Barack Obama joins a roll-call of world leaders at next week's memorials for late South African president Nelson Mandela he will honor a personal inspiration.

Many international statesmen have been keen to associate themselves with the revered anti-apartheid fighter, but Obama can cite a convincing precedent for claiming Mandela's influence.

America's first black president paid tribute to South Africa's first democratic leader by penning the foreword to Mandela's 2010 essay "Conversations with Myself."

In his contribution, he described how before and after his own election he had spoken several times with Mandela and had admired his humanity as much as the symbol he had become.

"Those are the moments when I am reminded that underneath the history that has been made, there is a human being who chose hope over fear -- progress over the prisons of the past," Obama wrote.

"And I am reminded that, even as he has become a legend, to know the man -- Nelson Mandela -- is to respect him even more."

Writing in his own memoir, "Dreams from My Father," Obama described how he came to replace his absent African father with an idealized image inspired by civil rights and anti-colonial figures.

"It was into my father's image, the black man, son of Africa, that I'd packed all the attributes I sought in myself, the attributes of Martin and Malcolm, DuBois and Mandela," he wrote.

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PARADERA-- Major traffic intersections are becoming focal points for seasonal celebrations as Aruba prepares for end of the year celebrations. The various rotundas around the islands may be covered with white pebbles to simulate snow, but the holiday cheer is just as much in force. As Part of the "Bo Bario Project" endorsed by the government, Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport and Culture, Otmar Oduber welcomed the community at the inauguration. The Minister opened the night by thanking Bucuti & Tara Resorts and ATA (Aruba Tourism Authority) who adopted this roundabout and turned it into a spectacular view. As minister of Culture, Oduber was happy to see that the decoration theme was of our culture and folklore. Centro Sonrisa, Scol Duna Un Man, Colegio Pastoor Kraanwinkel, Scol Preparatorio Nos Paraiso, Sint Jan Kleuterschool and Emma School also contributed by decorating the seven Christmas trees placed around the decorated historic monuments.

As of December 10th! Changes in registration at Hospital

ORANJESTAD -- Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital is striving to better the quality of their patient care by being more people friendly. That is why soon a change in the registration process has been initiated.

Presently, patients must first report at the Central Registration Office where their patient-and insurance information is controlled. After that, they have to report at the department or polyclinic where they have their scheduled appointment.

As of Tuesday December 10th patients are not longer required to first report to Central Registration.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PATIENTS OF THE HOSPITAL?

Polyclinic patients for departments other than Radiology and Lab

As of Tuesday, December 10th patients can report directly to the department or polyclinic where they must be. The patient registration and control of insurance will take place at the mentioned department or the clinic itself.

Radiology and Labora-

tory patients

As of Tuesday, December 10th Lab and Radiology patients, on arrival, can go directly to the information desk and request a number. A guard or hospital assistant will be at hand to assist. The patient can then go into the waiting room of the mentioned department and will be called up by the automatic calling system.

For tests, such as MRI, CT-scan, Echo and Mammograms, one must make an appointment. A doctor can make a request for their patient via fax at 588-3794. The patient will then be contacted by a Radiology clerk who will arrange an appointment date.

Incoming patients via Emergency Radiology

Patients who come in via the Emergency Radiology department do not have to take a number and can go directly to the next free service window of Radiology.

For questions or information, the patients can go to the information desk in the main hall, or by the assistant at the number window opposite the information desk.

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ORANJESTAD -- To close off SETAR's 10 year celebration as a N.V., SETAR is giving away gifts.

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Besides the tremendous promotion for DSL, Cablenet and Wireless Broadband, all clients who purchase a prod-

uct or service of SETAR during this period are going to participate in the campaign to win part of the Afl. 50.000 prize.

This sum will be shared among 5 happy clients of SETAR. Each will receive the nice sum of Afl. 10.000.

The drawing of the first three big prizes for the end of the year will take place on the night of the Mobile Bazaar, Sunday December 15th, 2013. The other two big prizes of Afl. 10.000 each, will be announced on Friday, January 3, 2014 during the program on Tele Aruba "Den Dje."

To apply clients can drop by at any Teleshop of SETAR or SETAR store.

For more information please visit www.setar.aw or call 525-1700.

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Dutch politicians pay tribute to Mandela, footballers to hold minute's silence

THE NETHERLANDS -- Dutch politicians have been paying tribute to Nelson Mandela, the former South African president who fought to end apartheid, who died on Thursday at the age of 95.

Prime minister Mark Rutte said Mandela's death was reason for a quiet moment of reflection.

'Nelson Mandela was a unique person with unbelievable charisma and a great moral authority,' Rutte said. 'Even after 27 years on Robben Island, he continued to believe in humanity. There was a place for everyone in his new South Africa.'

Foreign minister Frans Timmermans said Mandela's

legacy will continue to inspire countless generations.

Inspiration

Mandela had rare generosity of spirit, the foreign minister said. 'How else can you explain the fact that a man who was imprisoned for his beliefs for decades... came without bitterness or resentment to seek reconciliation with his former oppressor?'

'He strived for freedom and won that fight. He fought against the inequality of apartheid and won that fight,' said D66 leader Alexander Pechtold. 'People with such significance are rare in world history.'

'He gave South Africa its freedom back and was an example of leadership in its most pure and just form,' said Halbe Zijlstra, parliamentary leader of the VVD Liberals.

The Dutch football association KNVB has called for a minute's silence to remember Nelson Mandela to be held before this weekend's premier and first division football games.

Mandela was a fan of sport. His last big public appearance was the final of the 2010 World Cup between the Netherlands and Spain in Johannesburg. Nos television said.

Fundraising concert for Philippine victims of Typhoon Haiyan at Paseo Herencia this Sunday



PALM BEACH -- Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach is hosting an evening of entertainment and traditional Filipino food organized by the United Filipino Community of Aruba (UFILCOA) this coming Sunday, December 8, from 6:00 to 9:30 PM.

UFILCOA has recruited some of their best Filipino vocalists, and they have quite a few talented performers in the community, for a concert

called "Hope & Resilience." They will also offer traditional dishes and non-alcoholic beverages for sale, of which all proceeds will be donated for the typhoon victims.

Nearly a million were left homeless by the storm, and are living in shelters. Children have been orphaned, and even the smallest donation assists in their care and rebuilding.

The proceeds will be sent to the Philippine Red Cross.

Well-known performers taking to the stage or Ramphys Tromp, Angela Croes, Ester Do Nascimento, Tico Croes, Fred De Jong, The Unplugged Band, Jaja Preche, Gavin Eufemia, Romeo Kilayko, Maita & Filipino Choir.

If unable to attend the fundraising effort, donations can be pledged by calling 592-7772.

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(Includes: Rice, coleslaw, french fries & fried plantain)

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(Includes: Rice, coleslaw french fries & fried plantain)

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(Rice, coleslaw, french fries, fried plantain)

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A special silver anniversary celebration for the O'Sullivan's, courtesy of Divi Resort



John and Dianne O'Sullivan

ORANJESTAD -- John and Dianne O'Sullivan of City Island, New York, have been married for 43 years, but this week marks the 25th consecutive year they have traveled to Aruba, always staying at the Divi Resort. The couple is well-known at the resort because each year at this time, Dianne, a travel agent,

its children in the hospital to calm their fears and make it a more positive experience, and Dianne really connected with their purpose. Her son Brian hit the headlines a few years ago setting the New York Marathon running record for an above-the-knee-amputee. Always athletic, Brian was proving a point, as



tors, and so she and her clients were very supportive.

Back again for their 25th year, Dianne finds all the work of the party a bit exhausting, and the group is also sadly missing some of

their regulars, so she decided a quiet, relaxing visit was more in keeping with her group's mood.

The Divi staff, however, couldn't imagine a visit from the O'Sullivan's and her peo-

ple without some sort of celebration, and so insisted on arranging a special party around the pool for them, commemorating their 25th stay with Divi Resorts.

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With Bob and Mary Lou Lachman



arranges a festive Christmas bash for the group she brings with her, ranging anywhere from 50 to nearly 150 clients from the New York/New Jersey area. It would even include a visit from Santa.

For the last few years, the O'Sullivan's asked all those attending to bring toys and gifts for children, which were donated to the local Aruban foundation Clown Doctors. The foundation regularly vis-

he had been rejected by the New York Police Department as physically unfit. He wanted to be a NY cop like his father, older brother and grandfather before him. He was born with one leg drastically shorter than the other, which finally required amputation. Having her young son spend so much time in the hospital, instilled in Dianne an understanding of the work of a group like Clown Doc-

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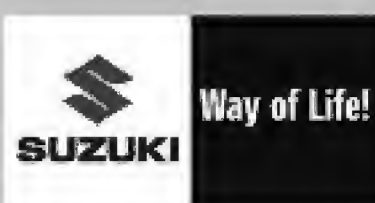
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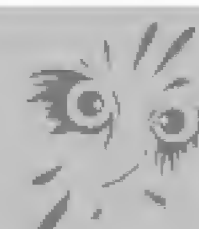
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Special silver anniversary...

Cont. from pg 4

"We ended up spending all this year's at the Divi after we arrived on Aruba for our second stay at their sister Tamarijn Resort," recalls John. "While Dianne was checking in, I took a walk out to the beach and found it had been nearly washed away by some rough water earlier that year. I walked down here to the Divi, and we really liked the layout, so stayed here instead. That was it for us, Divi became our destination ever since."

Dianne does not consider the group they travel with her clients, but long-time friends, and they reciprocate the feeling. She is retired now, but they still come to Aruba twice a year, and life wouldn't be the same without enjoying the island with this special circle of loyal patrons she has amassed over the years. This year, they brought 72, including Mary Lou and Bob Lachman, with whom they have traveled all over the world together.

"I love what they have done with the resort," commented Dianne on extensive

renovations at the Divi. "The pool deck, and the new buffet terrace are just stunning. I noticed the food at the buffet is also upgraded and absolutely excellent. The way they set it up with more stations, there is no more waiting on line to get a meal."

"The one thing that hasn't changed, is the most important thing," she notes. "The people who work here are so special. I have traveled the world over, but here at the Divi they have the warmest, friendliest staff I have ever encountered anywhere. That is what keeps us coming back year after year."

Divi reserved the pool area for the group and provided an elegant anniversary celebration, which all enjoyed immensely.

Though their son Brian never was able to get on the NY Police Force, his story has a happy ending. He was hired by the FBI, and Dianne proudly reports he is now enjoying working for the U.S. Marshal's Office.

By Rosalie Klein

Ladies & Gentlemen at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba received their ServSafe certification



Palm Beach- Recently the ladies and gentlemen of the prestigious hotel were invited at The Divi Phoenix sunset garden ballroom for a nice ceremony, where several Food and Beverage employees from

different hotels and restaurants received their ServSafe certification, which they passed with great scores. Guest speakers for this occasion were The Ritz-Carlton gentlemen, Gerald Sarmiento who is the Di-

rector of Restaurant and the Executive Chef, Stephen Toevs. The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba congratulates everyone who has pass the test and who received their certification during this ceremony.

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Hillary Clinton: Mandela was 'giant among us'



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton on Friday praised the life of South Africa's late leader Nelson Mandela, whom she hailed as "a giant among us."

Clinton, who was accepting a prestigious human rights award in Washington, focused on Mandela's death, saying Americans and others should use his towering moral authority as a compass to improve conditions worldwide.

"We meet on the day after the loss of a giant among us," said Clinton, who recalled how she first met Mandela in 1992 and again on subsequent occasions, including when she was America's top diplomat.

Mandela, who died at age 95, was "someone who by the power of his example demonstrated unequivocally how each of us can choose how we will respond to those injustices and grievances, those sorrows and tragedies that afflict all of humankind," she told hundreds of guests at a Capitol Hill ceremony.

Clinton became the first woman recipient of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Prize, named after the Holocaust survivor and US congressman who died in 2008.

Clinton, 66, noted that Mandela and Lantos were both born into oppression -- Lantos in Nazi-era Hungary, Mandela in apartheid South Africa -- and overcame "the worst that humanity can offer."

Their commitment to human rights transcended borders and inspired Clinton to embark on her quest to improve conditions for women around the world.

"Secretaries of state come and go, but what remains is that profound commitment to making a difference, in whatever position we find ourselves," Clinton said.

Her audience listened closely for any hint about her political future, with Clinton widely regarded as the leading Democratic candidate in the 2016 presidential race.

Clinton, who in September indicated she was "not in any hurry" to decide whether or not to run, made no comment on the matter.

Madeleine Albright, America's first female secretary of state, introduced Clinton as a human rights visionary but also suggested that there might be more to accomplish for the woman who once occupied the White House as first lady.

"She has shattered almost every glass ceiling," Albright said.

World mourns South Africa peace icon Mandela

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"We will do it in your name," she said.

In Brazil, organisers of the 2014 football World Cup flashed Mandela's image up on a giant screen and held a minute's silence before the groups' draw.

Even Syria's beleaguered president, Bashar al-Assad, ventured a homage on his official Facebook page, calling Mandela "a torch for the resistance and liberation from racism, hatred, occupation and injustice" and "an inspiration for all the downtrodden people of the world".

Mandela's passing expected, but sad

While the ailing former statesman's death had long been expected after a spate of hospitalisations, the announcement came as a burst of searing sadness nonetheless.

Mandela had waged a long battle against a recurring lung infection and had been receiving treatment at home since September following a lengthy hospital stay.

Mandela's two youngest daughters were in London watching the premiere of his biopic "Long Walk to Freedom", along with Britain's Prince William, when they learned of his death.

British actor Idris Elba, who portrayed Mandela in the film, said: "We have lost one of the greatest human beings to have walked this Earth."

Mandela's eldest grandson Mandla expressed gratitude for the international outpouring of support, saying the messages had "heartened and overwhelmed" the family.

Outside his house in the upmarket Houghton suburb and at his former residence in the once blacks-only township of Soweto, scores of well-wishers danced and sang old songs of struggle to celebrate the man they lov-

ingly call Madiba. His December 10 memorial service will take place in a 90,000-plus capacity Soweto stadium.

'Terrorist' turned icon

Once considered a terrorist by the United States and Britain for his support of violence against the apartheid regime, at the time of his death he was an almost unimpeachable moral icon.

Mandela's extraordinary life story, quirky sense of humour and lack of bitterness towards his former oppressors ensured global appeal for the charismatic leader.

He spent 27 years behind bars before being freed in 1990 to lead the African National Congress (ANC) in negotiations with the white minority rulers, which culminated in the first multi-racial elections in 1994.

A victorious Mandela served a single term as president before taking up a new role as a roving elder statesman and leading AIDS campaigner. He retired from public life in 2004.

Born in 1918, Mandela started a career as a lawyer in Johannesburg in parallel with his political activism.

He became commander of the armed wing of the then-banned ANC and underwent military training in Algeria and Ethiopia in the early 1960s.

He was arrested and sentenced to life in jail for sabotage in 1964. At his trial, he delivered the speech that was to become the manifesto of the anti-apartheid movement.

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society," he said from the dock. "It is an ideal for which

I am prepared to die."

He served most of his sentence on Robben Island, where he was held in spartan conditions. When he was finally released on February 11, 1990, he walked out of prison with his fist raised alongside his then-wife Winnie.

Ex-prisoner 46664 then took on the task of persuading de Klerk to call time on the era of racist white minority rule.

'We can change the world'

After the ANC won the country's first multi-racial elections, Mandela declared his intention to establish "a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world".

Critics said his five-year presidency was marred by corruption and rising levels of crime. But his successors have never enjoyed the same levels of respect or affection.

Mandela divorced his second wife Winnie in 1996. He found new love in retirement with Graca Machel, the widow of the late Mozambican president Samora Machel, whom he married on his 80th birthday.

Myanmar's own democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi spoke of her "extreme grief" at the death of her fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner, who "made us understand that we can change the world".

Mandela is survived by three daughters, 18 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and three step-grandchildren. He had four step-children through his marriage to Machel.

His death has left his family divided over his wealth. Some of his children and grandchildren are locked in a legal feud with his close friends over alleged irregularities in his two companies.

Polish parliament mulls bill to simplify sex change process

WARSAW (AFP) - The Polish parliament on Friday took a step towards adopting a bill that would simplify the legal sex change process, a proposal made by Poland's only transsexual lawmaker.

The bill passed the initial hurdle despite opposition from the conservative PiS party, which considers it anti-family. Sixteen lawmakers abstained while 198 voted for scrapping the draft legislation in its first reading.

The bill proposes to simplify the legal process for transsexuals who want to change their gender and to make it available to anyone aged 13 and over.

"It's time to acknowledge that transsexual and intersexual people exist," Grodzka said Tuesday when introducing the bill.

"Even if they are in the minority, we can't refuse them the right to live according to their own identity. It would be against the constitution."

The current legal process is lengthy and psychologically painful, according to Polish ombudswoman Irena Lipowicz.

It requires transsexuals to file a lawsuit against their parents for incorrectly reporting their gender at birth in civil registries.

Born as a man, the 59-year-old Grodzka made history when she was elected Poland's first transsexual lawmaker in 2011. The world's first was Georgina Beyer, who served in New Zealand's parliament between 1999-2007.

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Europe winter storm claims 10 lives

BERLIN (AFP) - Icy winter storms with hurricane-force winds Friday lashed northern Europe, where the death toll rose to 10 while hundreds of thousands suffered power blackouts and road, rail and air transport chaos.

The latest known victim was an elderly woman in north-central Sweden who was found dead in the snow outside her flat, wearing only her dressing gown.

Also in Sweden, a man was killed by a falling tree Friday, and two Filipino sailors who

were swept off a Dutch-registered ship into freezing waters Thursday remained unaccounted for, with the search called off.

Atlantic storm "Xaver", having barreled across Britain, where two people died Thursday, packed winds of up to 158 kilometres (98 miles) per hour as it lashed Germany, also battering the Netherlands, Poland and southern Scandinavia.

Across northern Europe, emergency services battled to evacuate flooded harbour areas, sandbag sodden dykes

and repair damage from toppled trees that crashed onto houses, highways, train tracks and electricity lines.

Blackouts hit 400,000 households in Poland and affected 50,000 people in Sweden and 4,000 homes in Germany, while thousands of air passengers were stranded as hundreds of flights were cancelled at Amsterdam, Berlin, Hamburg, Gdansk and other airports.

The highest ocean swells in decades -- whipped up by the strong winds and a large tidal

surge -- smashed into dykes in northern Germany and the Netherlands, which however reported no major breaches.

Three people were killed in Poland when a tree crashed down onto their car near the northern town of Lembork, said firefighters' spokesman Bogdan Madej.

The previous day in Britain, a lorry driver was killed when his vehicle toppled onto other cars in Scotland, while an elderly man riding a mobility scooter was struck by a falling tree in Nottinghamshire, cen-

tral England.

Also Thursday, a 72-year-old woman died in Denmark after strong winds tipped over her van.

Despite the deaths and turmoil, affected countries breathed a sigh of relief Friday that the damage wasn't worse -- mindful of catastrophic floods that hit North Sea countries in 1953, when more than 2,000 people died.

Britain reported the worst tidal surge since that disaster, but Environment Agency spokesman Tim Connell told the BBC that "the defences seemed to have held up well".

HIV returns in two US men after bone marrow transplants

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Signs of HIV have returned in two American men who appeared to have briefly eradicated the virus after bone marrow transplants for cancer, US doctors said Friday.

Experts said the discovery is a disappointment to efforts to find a cure for the human immunodeficiency virus behind AIDS, but offers important new clues in the hunt for the disease's elusive hiding places.

Only one person is believed to have been cured of HIV. American Timothy Brown, who suffered from leukemia, received a bone marrow transplant from a rare donor resistant to HIV and has shown no sign of the virus for six years.

"The return of detectable levels of HIV in our patients is disappointing, but scientifically significant," said Timothy Heinrich, a physician-researcher in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospi-

tal in Boston.

Heinrich first shared the news with fellow researchers at an international AIDS conference in Miami on Thursday.

Both HIV-positive men received bone marrow transplants as treatment for a kind of blood cancer known as Hodgkin's lymphoma, one in 2008 and the other in 2010.

About eight months after their operations, HIV was no longer detectable.

The patients stayed on anti-retroviral therapy for while, but decided to cease taking the drugs earlier this year.

In July, doctors announced early, encouraging results: one patient appeared HIV-free after being off the drugs for seven weeks and the other for 15 weeks.

But signs of HIV soon returned. They were found in the first patient 12 weeks after stopping therapy, and in the second patient 32 weeks after stopping therapy.



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Mandela: AIDS campaigners mourn death of a champion

PARIS (AFP) - AIDS campaigners on Friday mourned the passing of Nelson Mandela, declaring his stand against taboo and stigma had turned the tide against the killer disease.

"Nelson Mandela was a central figure in the AIDS movement. He was instrumental in laying the foundations of the modern AIDS response," said Michel Sidibe, head of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, or UNAIDS.

"His actions helped save millions of lives and transformed health in Africa. He broke the conspiracy of silence and gave hope that all people should live with dignity."

Of Mandela's achievements, UNAIDS pointed to his decision in 2005 to go public with the news that his own son, Makgatho, had died of AIDS-related causes.

"His public revelation helped drive debate about HIV. And his support to people living with HIV helped to break down stigma and discrimination," UNAIDS said in a press release.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria paid tribute to Mandela's "special role" as a breaker of taboo.

"While other political leaders denied or ignored the spread of HIV, causing severe damage by hindering the implementation of effective treatment, Mandela spoke openly," it said.



Nelson Mandela was sent to prison on Robben Island in 1964; he was the 466th prisoner to arrive that year. He was given the prison number 46664.

Thirty-eight years later, Mandela gave his number to a global HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness campaign as a reminder of the sacrifices he made for a cause he believed in. 46664 (pronounced "four, double six, six four") was established in 2002 as an independent, not-for-profit organisation.

In 2008, a special tribute concert was held in London in celebration of Madiba's 90th birthday. At the concert, Mandela told the Wembley Stadium audience, "even as we celebrate, let us remind ourselves that our work is far from complete. Where there is poverty and sickness including Aids, where human beings are being oppressed, there is more work to be done. "Our work is for freedom for all... it's time for new hands to lift the burdens. It's in your hands now." The 46664 campaign has broadened its approach to heed Mandela's call, taking up issues of social injustice and to ensure his humanitarian legacy.

The International AIDS Society (IAS), whose conferences have spearheaded the war on AIDS and the human

immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes it, said the world "has lost an extraordinary statesman and human being".

"Mr. Mandela had the power to change hearts and minds, change policies and above all change the public's perception of the virus in the most affected region of sub-Saharan," said Bertrand Audoin, executive director of the IAS.

Failure to address the AIDS crisis in his country has been singled out as a weak spot in Mandela's record as the first president of post-apartheid South Africa, from 1994-1999.

But after he left office, stung by awareness of the problem, he threw himself into combatting discrimination and ramping up access to life-saving drugs through his 46664 Foundation, say activists.

Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, the Nobel-winning French scientist who co-discovered HIV, recalled Mandela's speech to the International AIDS Conference in 2000, which alerted the meeting to the tragedy unfolding in sub-Saharan Africa.

"He said, 'This is the one event where every word uttered, every gesture made, has

to be measured against the effect it can and will have on the lives of millions,'" she said.

"As a direct result of his speech, mother-to-child transmission in the region almost immediately became a priority and so did access to antiretrovirals."

"I have no doubt that his words that day did indeed save the lives of so many people and continues to do so."

South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), which demanded that Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, start distributing antiretrovirals to HIV-infected people, recalled when Mandela in 2002 donned a white T-shirt with the words "HIV Positive".

"In that moment he became one of us and made a powerful statement against stigma, at the same time sending a message to the then denialist government that people living with HIV are part of this country and should be given lifesaving treatment," TAC said.



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Tutu offers heartfelt Mandela tribute



file photo

CAPE TOWN (AFP) - South Africa's archbishop emeritus Desmond Tutu made an emotional tribute to his late friend Nelson Mandela on Friday, calling him an "incredible gift" to the nation, transcending race and class.

Speaking slowly and often on the verge of tears, Tutu said Mandela was "a unifier from the moment he walked out of prison," after 27 years behind bars.

"He taught us extraordinarily practical lessons about forgiveness, compassion and reconciliation."

In a tribute delivered often with closed eyes, the visibly moved fellow Nobel Peace laureate who is seen as South Africa's moral beacon, described Mandela as an "incredible gift that God gave us".

"We are relieved that his suffering is over but our relief is strung in our grief. We pray that he will rest in peace and rise in glory," Tutu said of the 95-year-old's death on Thursday.

But Tutu, known for his frankness even when it came to the nation's beloved icon, said Mandela was not without shortcomings.

"Did he have weaknesses? Of course he did, among them his steadfast loyalty to his organisation and to some of his colleagues who ultimately let him down, retaining in his cabinet underperforming, frankly incompetent ministers."

This had "laid the seeds for greater seeds of mediocrity and corruptibility that were to come", said Tutu, 82, who frequently laments South Africa's

post-democratic flaws.

Yet he dismissed fears of "doomsday and disaster" for South Africa on the passing of the man who was behind the country's emancipation from white minority rule.

"Some have suggested that... as he's gone our country is going to go up in flames," Tutu said.

"This is, I think, to discredit us South Africans, to discredit his legacy. The sun will rise tomorrow and the next day and the next. It may not appear as bright as yesterday but life will carry on."

Mandela spent his first night as a free man at Tutu's home in 1990 and he told of poignant interactions with the leader.

Impersonating Mandela's trademark voice, he described how Mandela had organised someone to pay for a driver for Tutu after he had discovered the clergyman had driven himself to his Johannesburg home for a lunch.

"He cared, he really, really cared," said Tutu, struggling to keep his composure.

Calling on South Africans to follow Mandela's example and using his clan name urged them to "let Madiba's dream be our dream".

He also offered "heartfelt sympathy" to Mandela's family and thanked them for sharing "Tata", or father as he was fondly known.

"Although we collectively claim him as the father of our nation and the pain we feel is similar to that of losing a close relative, he was your husband, your father, your grandfather, your great-grandfather."

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ORANJESTAD - Sinterklaas and his Zwartepieten visited Villa Doortje Kinder Garden on Thursday, where he was welcomed with special songs by happy kids in celebration of his day. Sinterklaas presented the kids with lots of gifts and goodies. All the Doortjes (kids) were good the whole year thru and none had to be taken away in the bag of zwartepiet. They had a really Fun day!

Acqua Condominium Aruba announces that construction has been progressing at a brisk pace



The East Tower, overlooking Palm Beach boasts 208 condos, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views. The building is simply awaiting the windows and a few finishing

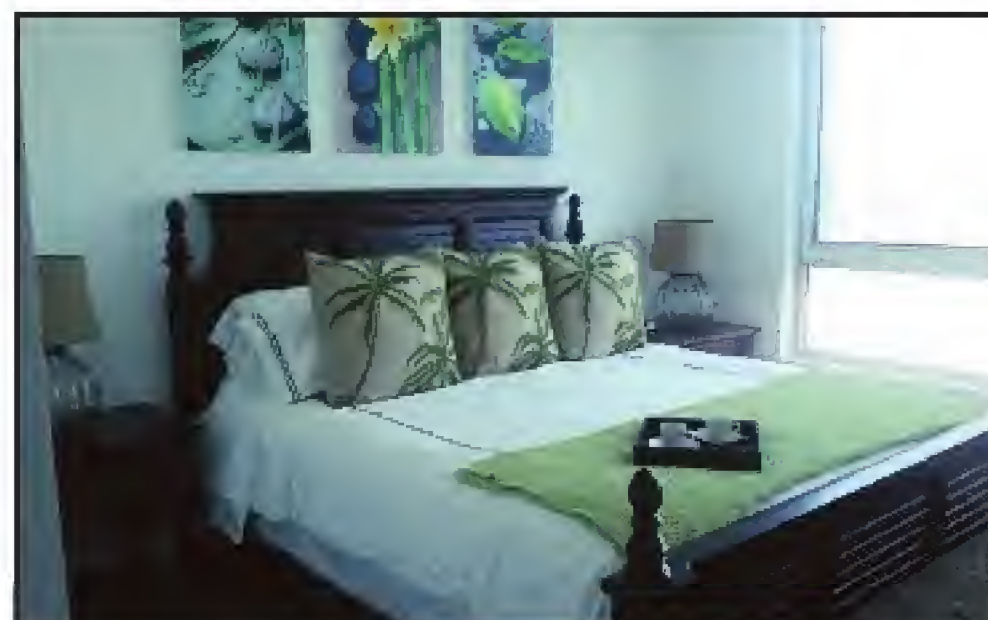
touches, to conclude construction, very possibly by the end of this year. Following the completion of the elegant clubhouse, the tropical landscaped pool and the spacious parking lots, the condos will be delivered to their proud new own-

ers. Ground has been cleared for the North Tower, which will follow as soon as the East Tower is completed.

A spokesperson for Acqua Condo Aruba reports that the project is receiving tremendous attention, particularly for the winter months. Snow-birds longing to reside in a vacation home on Aruba are now able to visualize this dream coming true, in a manner that leaves them utterly care free when not in residence.

Making the decision to purchase and acting on it quickly, was recently made even more imperative. In November of 2010, the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment to a building moratorium for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project, on property land, in the island's most-desired location.

In view of the moratorium news, and the project's lucrative position, developers were compelled to discontinue the pre-construction discounts. Nevertheless, other purchase incentives have introduced. Special discount offers in ef-



fect at present are:

Pay 30% down payment and get 10% discount, 50% down payment, get 15% discount, pay in full for a 25% discount. Prices start at \$ 296,800 for a 2-bedroom/2 bathroom apartment. Paying cash will allow the buyer to obtain this very same unit for only \$ 222,600 - remarkable savings!

Other incentives: The opportunity to profit from your purchase is also available to buyers when they place their unit in a rental pool year.

If the image of Aqua Condominium tugs at your heartstrings, you are invited to visit the sales gallery and the two elegant model-suites available for viewing, fully finished with luxurious touches and high-

end amenities.

The sales center is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. nonstop, and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You are invited to meet the sales team who will guide you through the purchase of the stylish condo of your dreams, allowing you to return to Aruba as often as you wish.

You will find the website very helpful.

Take a virtual tour and garner info regarding all legal documents, floor plans, furnishings and finishing at: www.acquaruba.com

Acqua Condominium Aruba, J.E. Irausquin Boulevard z/n. Palm Beach Aruba.

Cloud firm Box raises \$100 mn

NEW YORK (AFP) - Cloud storage startup Box, launched from a college dorm in 2005, has raised \$100 million in new capital to help fund a global expansion.

The latest funding gives Box, which competes with firms like Dropbox as well as Google and Microsoft, a value of some \$2 billion, according to the news blog TechCrunch.

Box said in a statement late Thursday that the new capital comes from Japanese partners Itochu Technology Ventures, Inc., Macnica, and Mitsui USA and MKI; European firm Telefonica; Australia's Telstra, and other investors.

"The combination of cloud and mobile technologies creates an entirely new way of working that will fundamentally reshape the IT industry," said Aaron Levie, co-founder and chief executive of Box.

Levie said in a blog post that the company is "working to support and reach enterprises everywhere in the world."

It currently is offered in 13

languages in addition to English and some 40 percent of its activity is outside the US market.

"In 2012, we opened our first international office in London," he said.

"Today, we have a team of 90 people throughout Europe... Next up is Japan."

He said Box partners will also help expand into Latin America and Australia.

"The coming year will be an exciting one for Box," he added.

"In addition to expanding our global presence, we'll be doubling down on creating amazing new experiences for end users, solving the most complex IT challenges simply and elegantly, and building a more powerful platform and ecosystem."

Levie founded the company in his dorm at the University of Southern California in 2005 with his friend Dylan Smith, who is chief financial officer.

Box claims more than 20 million users worldwide including 180,000 businesses.

Slippery clay intensified tsunami-quake in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) - A thin layer of very fine clay with a consistency similar to some cosmetics made Japan's tsunami-causing earthquake of 2011 much more dramatic because it acted as a lubricant, scientists say.

The narrow strip of slippery, wet clay that sits between two tectonic plates off the country's northeast coast allowed them to shift past each other at tremendous speed and to travel much further than in most regular quakes, researchers said.

The finding sheds more light on a catastrophe when a 9.0 magnitude undersea quake unleashed a towering tsunami that slammed into the coast, destroying whole communities and causing nuclear meltdowns at Fukushima.

They discovered that in areas where the layer of clay is sandwiched between strata of impermeable rock, it becomes even more slippery because of the pressure it is under.

US Air Force has secretly built a new stealth drone

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Air Force has secretly developed a new stealth drone for long-range reconnaissance missions that could be operational by 2015, according to a report Friday in an industry magazine.

The unmanned drone, dubbed RQ-180, is currently in the testing phase at the top secret Groom Lake air base in Nevada -- the infamous "Area 51" where the Air Force tested the U2 spy planes in the late 1950s, Aviation Week said.

The Air Force refused to comment when contacted by AFP.

The new aircraft was reportedly built by Northrop Grumman, the company behind the Global Hawk and the X-47B drones, which landed on air craft carriers for the first time this summer.

The US company may have obtained in 2003 a secret contract on the order of \$2 billion to develop the latest drone, according to Aviation Week.

An artistic rendering of the RQ-180 on the cover of the magazine shows a craft with

striking resemblance to the X-47B, in particular in lack of rear stabilizer and its so-called "batwing" shape.

It was developed for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions, but "could also be capable of electronic attack missions," the magazine said.

"It is similar in size and endurance to the Global Hawk," which can fly for 24 hours up to 1,200 nautical miles (2,000 kilometers) from its base.

A first generation of unmanned aircraft, the non-stealthy Reapers and Global Hawks, were used in Afghanistan and Iraq, but they were deemed too vulnerable in enemy territory equipped with powerful anti-aircraft defenses.

Now the Air Force is slowly turning to stealth drones, better at passing safely over unfriendly territory.

According to Aviation Week, the new RQ-180 "eclipses the smaller, less stealthy and shorter-range RQ-170 Sentinel."

OIL prices mixed amid strong US jobs data

LONDON (AFP) - Commodity prices diverged this week, with New York oil striking an October-peak and gold futures hitting five-month lows as markets tracked positive US economic data including Friday's jobs numbers.

The US jobless rate fell to seven percent in November, a five-year low, official data showed, raising the odds that the Federal Reserve could soon cut its huge stimulus programme.

The sharp drop in the rate, from 7.3 percent in October, was unexpected, and came as the economy generated a solid 203,000 jobs.

The jobs growth was spread over the manufacturing, retail trade, health and professional service sectors, and suggested that US industry continues to gain confidence despite the continuing battles over the budget and spending cuts in Washington, that many economists have feared would slow hiring.

And analysts said the strength of the Labor Department report could give the Fed more reason to begin cutting back its \$85 billion a month bond-buying programme, aimed at boosting economic growth.

OIL: Crude future rose Friday but also earlier in the week

as the US government reported an unexpected weekly drop in US crude oil inventories, the first decline since mid-September.

US prices won support also on the announcement that part of the Keystone pipeline in the United States would open in January, bringing oil from Cushing, Oklahoma, to Texas refineries along the Gulf of Mexico.

European benchmark Brent retained broad support over concerns of a supply disruption in the North Sea.

A deadly fierce storm battered northern Europe with hurricane winds on Thursday, while British authorities had to evacuate 15,000 homes on the North Sea coast.

The market this week also reacted to OPEC's decision on oil output.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which pumps out one third of the world's crude, agreed to hold its crude production ceiling at 30 million barrels per day despite oversupply concerns and competition from cheaper shale oil.

By Friday on London's Intercontinental Exchange, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in January climbed to \$111.20 a barrel from \$110.93 a week earlier.

WTO pact in doubt after Latin America objections

NUSA DUA (AFP) - Negotiations on a global trade deal teetered on the brink of collapse Saturday as Latin American countries objected to the removal of a reference to the US embargo on Cuba, the WTO said.

New World Trade Organization chief Roberto Azevedo of Brazil is pushing commerce ministers to agree on a set of measures at a conference on the Indonesian island of Bali.

He has said success in Bali was vital to ensuring the WTO's credibility as an effective multilateral body at a time when alternative regional trade alliances threatened its relevance.

Hopes were raised late Friday as it appeared agreement was near on a text that includes commitments to facilitate trade by simplifying customs procedures.

But Cuba, Bolivia, Venezuela and Nicaragua dashed those hopes as marathon negotiations dragged into the early hours of Saturday, when they rejected the text.

"We need to continue our consultations and find a way to overcome this problem," WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell told reporters.

The four countries "were unhappy with the removal of the reference to the embargo, it was a very political statement,

which expressed certain ideological elements," Rockwell said.

The content of that removed clause was not immediately clear.

The WTO later said it was suspending talks for several hours, to resume at 0200 GMT on Saturday.

The package under consideration is relatively modest compared to the WTO's broad vision of tearing down trade barriers around the world.

But it would nevertheless mark the first global deal struck by the body since its 1995 founding, and some economists have said it would give a \$1 trillion jolt to the world economy.

The meeting opened Tuesday amid stark warnings from ministers that the Geneva-based WTO's credibility as the arbiter of global trade negotiations would be severely wounded if it could not deliver on even the limited Bali deal.

Initial drama surrounding the package focused on a divide between India and a number of trading nations including the United States.

India -- which aims to stockpile and subsidise grain for its millions of poor -- had demanded that such measures be granted indefinite exemption from any WTO challenge.

But critics said India's grain policy violated WTO rules on

subsidies and expressed fear the grain could enter markets, skewing world prices.

Compromise wording appeared to leave the exemption period open-ended while committing nations to ensuring stockpiles would not affect the markets of other countries.

Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma welcomed the revision as a "historic decision".

Azevedo has framed a successful deal as a possible springboard for reviving the WTO's larger agenda of freeing up trade through the Doha Round of talks launched in Qatar in 2001.

Those talks aim to slash trade barriers and establish globally binding rules fair to both rich and poor countries.

But protectionist disputes among the WTO's 159 members have foiled agreement.

The Bali package involves a commitment to limit agricultural subsidies, simplify customs procedures to facilitate trade, and policies to aid least-developed countries.

Azevedo has said that without the shot in the arm that such an agreement would bring, the WTO risks being eclipsed by alternative regional pacts emerging between major trading nations.

These include the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) spearheaded by Washington. TPP negotiators will meet in Singapore this weekend as they work to hammer out a deal.

Azevedo, who took over in September, said such pacts cannot protect the interests of the developing world's masses of poor -- a key WTO mission.

Philips is part of Brussels probe into online electronics sales cartel

THE HAGUE - Dutch electronics giant Philips is one of a number of companies being investigated as part of a European Commission probe into a suspected online sales cartel.

Philips was visited by the European cartel authorities on Tuesday and said in a statement it will fully cooperate with the inquiry.

The commission has not

made the names and locations of companies under investigation public. According to news agency Bloomberg, EU officials also visited Samsung and the Media-Saturn group, which is active in the Netherlands with the Media Markt and Saturn chains.

The 'unannounced inspections' were part of an investigation into a 'number of companies active in the manufacture, distribution and retail of consumer electronics products and small domestic appliances'.

The commission said it suspected the companies may have put in place restrictions on online sales of consumer electronics and domestic equipment.

'These restrictions, if proven, may lead to higher consumer prices or the unavailability of products through certain online sales channels,' the statement said.

At the end of 2012, Philips was fined €500m by Brussels following an investigation into

fixing the prices of television and computers. Philips is appealing against that ruling.



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexican police officers stand guard next to a fence in front of the Mexican Senate on Thursday, in Mexico City, as supporters of Mexico's leftist leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador hold a rally against the privatization of the state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX). Lopez Obrador, who never recognized being defeated by Pena Nieto in the 2012 presidential election, rejects Government's plans to overhaul the tax system and open the country's state-controlled oil industry to foreign investors.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

	S	T	A	B	S		E	S	P	
S	T	E	L	L	A		M	O	O	D
C	O	L	L	A	R		I	M	S	O
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	D	R	I	P		O	N	C	E	
				N	E	T		T	R	A
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A	R	T	S			T	I	N	G	E
	P	S	T			E	L	D	E	R

COMICS

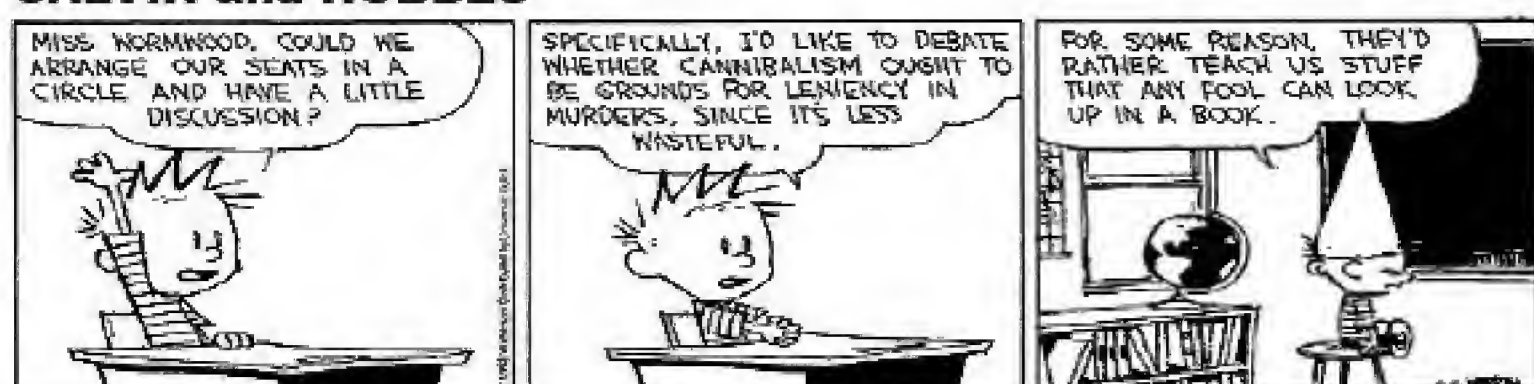
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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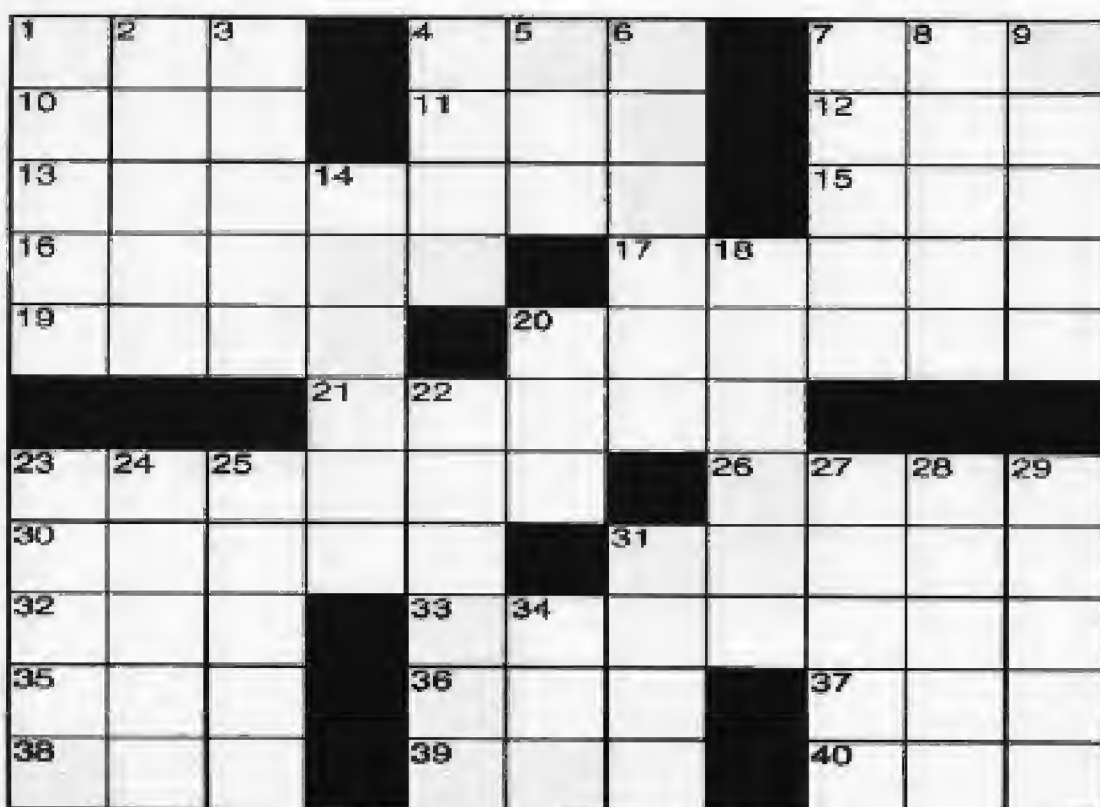
- 1 Employment
4 Bench player, for short
7 Likely IRS worker
10 "Eureka!"
11 Single unit
12 ___ Glory
13 Commute together
15 Young fellow
16 Stadium music
- maker
17 Incensed
19 Bar order
20 Rented
21 Asimov's realm (hyph.)
23 Amble
26 Gunfight word
30 Beijing's locale
31 Needing hoeing
32 Classic car
33 South Africa's

- Nelson
35 Rescue worker (abbr.)
36 Spherical body
37 Map marking (abbr.)
38 Director Craven
39 Magnavox rival
40 Hold session

DOWN

- 1 John ___ Astor

- 2 Chicago airport
3 River boat
4 In the near future
5 One, in Lima
6 Faith
7 Soft drinks
8 Dinner dish
9 Totaled
14 Preacher
18 Invaded
20 "___ Abner"
22 Noise
23 Threaded metal fastener
24 Student's composition
25 Prison uprisings
27 Fishing equipment
28 Dwight's foe
29 Actress Jane
31 Female sports group (abbr.)
34 Circle part



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Numbers

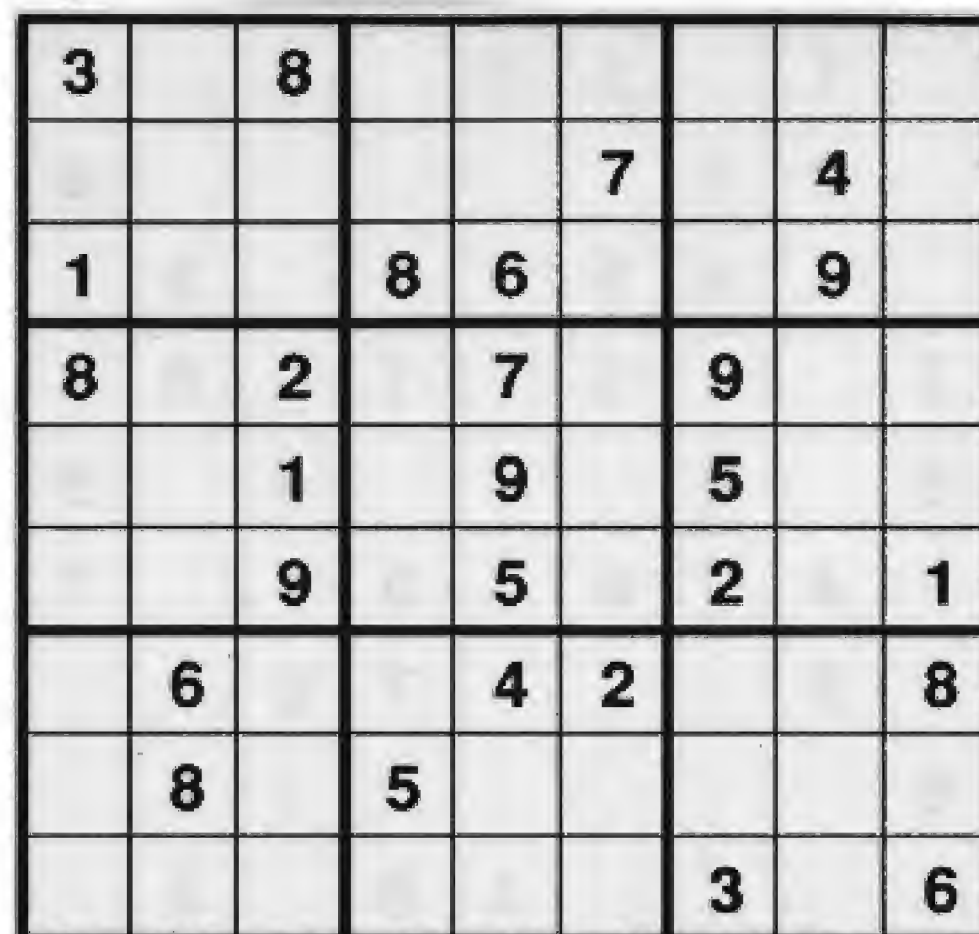
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	2	5	6	8	4	1	3	7
6	4	7	9	1	5	8	2	3
8	5	1	2	7	6	4	9	3
1	8	2	9	3	7	5	6	4
4	8	5	6	8	2	1	7	9
7	6	1	4	9	2	5	8	3
5	6	4	2	9	7	3	1	8
2	7	8	4	1	9	6	5	3
3	1	9	7	2	6	8	4	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

O Condominiums

A small, exclusive boutique condo resort tailored to your taste



Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge

services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeach.aruba.com>

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at *The Queen's*



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.

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World Cup 2014 Final draw

LONDON (AFP) - World governing body FIFA on Friday conducted the draw for next year's World Cup, when 32 national teams will converge on Brazil to compete for the sport's most important prize.

Six months and six days before the tournament opens with a game between Brazil and Croatia in Sao Paulo, AFP Sports assesses where the group phase will be decided.

GROUP A: Brazil, Croatia, Mexico, Cameroon

- Having hit form in spectacular style earlier this year by winning the Confederations Cup with a 3-0 win over world and European champions Spain, Brazil start the tournament as favourites. Croatia, Mexico and Cameroon are likely to face a fight to secure second place. Croatia and Mexico are classed in the top 20 in the FIFA ranking, but both struggled in qualifying and had to come through play-offs; Croatia overcoming Iceland and Mexico thrashing New Zealand 9-3 over two legs. Cameroon, ranked 51st, saw off Tunisia 4-1 in the final round of African qualifying. Mexico's Under-23 side stunned a Brazil team featuring Neymar, Oscar and Thiago Silva in last year's Olympic final in London, but the Selecao gained a measure of revenge with a 2-0 win at the Confederations Cup.

GROUP B: Spain, Netherlands, Chile, Australia

- Four years on from their duel in the 2010 final at Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium, Spain and the Netherlands will do battle again for supremacy in Group B. Spain remain the world's top-ranked team, but their crown has slipped in the wake of the one-sided loss to Brazil in the Confederations Cup final. Now under the management of Louis van Gaal, Holland stormed through qualifying, dropping only two points and scoring 34 goals.



Chile will also provide a stern test, having surged to a place in Brazil with a run of five wins and a draw in their six final qualifying matches. Beaten 2-1 by Spain in the group phase at the last World Cup, they came within a whisker of defeating Vicente del Bosque's side in a recent friendly in Geneva. Australia, who are rebuilding under new coach Ange Postecoglou, appear unlikely to avoid a fourth-place finish.

GROUP C: Colombia, Greece, Ivory Coast, Japan

- One of only two pools not to feature a previous tournament-winner, Group C is headlined by a Colombia side who qualified comfortably behind Argentina in South American qualifying. With an attack spearheaded by Monaco teammates James Rodriguez and 'El Tigre' Radamel Falcao, they are currently ranked fourth in the world. Greece, who beat Romania in a qualifying play-off, remain characteristically obdurate opponents, however, and Ivory Coast's gilded generation of Yaya Toure and Didier Drogba will view this as their last chance to make a mark at a World Cup. Japan are ranked well below their three group rivals, but they reached the last 16 at the 2010 World Cup and boast world-renowned attacking midfielders such as Keisuke Honda and Shinji Kagawa.

GROUP D: Uruguay, Costa Rica, England, Italy

- England's media were quick to categorise Group D

the 'Group of Death' and Roy Hodgson's side face an unenviable task. Italy looked a class apart in their quarter-final victory on penalties over England at the 2012 European Championship, while South American champions Uruguay boast a formidable attacking trident of Diego Forlan, Edinson Cavani and Luis Suarez. Both Italy and England finished unbeaten in European qualifying, but English optimism has been tempered by recent friendly defeats at home to Germany and Chile. Uruguay won the last World Cup on Brazilian soil, in 1950, but they laboured in qualifying and had to come through a play-off against Jordan. Costa Rica qualified in second place behind the United States in the CONCACAF region, but they will have their work cut out.

GROUP E: Switzerland, Ecuador, France, Honduras

- After remarkably coming back from the dead in their qualifying play-off against Ukraine, France were rewarded with a seemingly straightforward draw. However, they found themselves in similarly benign-seeming groups in both 2006 and 2010, only to toil in Germany and crash out in South Africa. The scars of the South African debacle, when the squad went on strike, are yet to heal fully, but Didier Deschamps's gifted squad will be strongly favoured to reach the last 16. Switzerland stunned Spain at the last World Cup, but were held to draws by both Cyprus

and Iceland in qualifying. Ecuador pipped Uruguay to an automatic qualifying place in the CONMEBOL region, but they relied heavily on their home form and failed to win a single game away from home. Honduras's fate is likely to be determined to a large extent by their second group game, against Ecuador in Curitiba.

GROUP F: Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iran, Nigeria

- The leading team in South American qualifying, Argentina will hope that Barcelona megastar Lionel Messi, the world's outstanding player, is ready to leave his mark on a World Cup after a fitful tournament in 2006 and disappointment under Diego Maradona's slightly chaotic stewardship in 2010. They will be expected to win the group, but face difficult opponents in the form of tournament debutants Bosnia-Herzegovina and African champions Nigeria. Led by forwards Edin Dzeko and Vedad Ibisevic, Bosnia netted an impressive 30 goals in qualifying, while Nigeria won this year's Africa Cup of Nations and impressed in a recent 2-2 friendly draw with Italy. Iran went into the draw as Asia's top-ranked team, but their hopes of progressing appear meagre.

GROUP G: Germany, Portugal, Ghana, United States

- A pool without a glaring weak spot, Group G sees title contenders Germany drawn alongside familiar foes in the

form of Portugal and Ghana. Germany encountered Ghana in the group phase of the last World Cup, winning 1-0 in Johannesburg, and overcame Portugal by the same scoreline at Euro 2012. With a squad packed with lavishly gifted players, Joachim Loew's side are among the favourites for the tournament and will be expected to top the group, although they are likely to face a strong challenge from Cristiano Ronaldo-led Portugal. Ghana reached the last eight at the last World Cup and remain a solid prospect, having overcome Egypt 7-3 in a play-off to qualify. The draw had unique resonance for United States coach Jurgen Klinsmann, one of Germany's greatest ever players, who led his country to the World Cup semi-finals on home soil as manager in 2006. However, the presence of two European heavyweights in the group means a repeat performance with his adopted home nation seems improbable.

GROUP H: Belgium, Algeria, Russia, South Korea

- Blessed with a startling array of talent, including a glut of stars from the English Premier League, Belgium were imperious in qualifying and are being tipped to make a serious impression in Brazil. Russia coach Fabio Capello will hope for better World Cup memories after a dismal experience with England in 2010, having steered his well-drilled side to an impressive first-place finish ahead of Portugal in European qualifying. Group F. Memorable surprise semi-finalists on home turf in 2002, South Korea failed to convince in qualifying, but can take heart from the absence of any traditional powerhouses in the group. Algeria, meanwhile, will be expected to repeat their last-place group finish at the last World Cup, having gone out in the first round at this year's Africa Cup of Nations.


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Chester Hill and Renze Postma off to Olympic Triathlon in Florida



ORANJESTAD - Two athletes who are part of the Aruba Triathlon Association pre-selection, Chester Hill and Renze

Postma, have travelled to Key West Florida where they will compete in the 4th Key West Sprint/Olympic Triathlon. The Aruba head coach Nicolaas Robert travelled with them.

The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th of December at Higgs Beach, Key West. Chester will participate in the Sprint distance of 0.75 km - cycle 30km, run on foot 5km. While Renze will compete in the Olympic Distance swim 1.5km - cycle 40 km - run on foot 10km. Both athletes have a tremendous record. Postma, for example, has many titles to his name. Both are national champions in sprint triathlons in their respective categories. They also excelled in the Aruba International Triathlon.

In the PATCO Triathlon Junior Pan American 2013 Cup in Canada Renze Postma was placed in the 18th place in the Junior Elite marking time of 1:00:05. During the South American Youth Games in Lima, Peru, Chester Hill won a silver medal in the Mix Relay Triathlon.

The Subsidy Commission of

the Lotto pa Deporte Foundation is very pleased to support the Triathlon sport. The Triathlon organization has always worked hard for the benefit and progress of our athletes. In international visits they have always promoted Aruba well and have returned with various medals. The Foundation and Subsidy Commission wishes our athletes and coach much success in Key West, Florida.



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World Cup 2014 fixtures guide

COSTA DO SAUIPE (AFP) - Programme of fixtures for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, which runs from June 12 until July 13, following Friday's draw (local time and GMT):

GROUP PHASE

GROUP A

Thursday, June 12
Match 1: at Sao Paulo (17h00-20h00), Brazil v Croatia

Friday, June 13
Match 2: at Natal (13h00-16h00), Mexico v Cameroon

Tuesday, June 17
Match 17: at Fortaleza (16h00-19h00), Brazil v Mexico

Wednesday, June 18
Match 18: at Manaus (15h00-19h00), Cameroon v Croatia

Monday, June 23
Match 33: at Brasilia (17h00-20h00), Cameroon v Brazil
Match 34: at Recife (17h00-20h00), Croatia v Mexico

GROUP B

Friday, June 13
Match 3: at Salvador (16h00-19h00), Spain v Netherlands
Match 4: at Cuiaba (18h00-22h00), Chile v Australia

Wednesday, June 18
Match 19: at Rio de Janeiro (19h00-22h00), Spain v Chile
Match 20: at Porto Alegre (13h00-16h00), Australia v Netherlands

Monday, June 23
Match 35: at Curitiba (13h00-16h00), Australia v Spain
Match 36: at Sao Paulo (13h00-16h00), Netherlands v Chile

GROUP C

Saturday, June 14
Match 5: at Belo Horizonte (13h00-16h00), Colombia v Greece
Match 6: at Recife (19h00-22h00), Ivory Coast v Japan

Thursday, June 19
Match 21: at Brasilia (13h00-16h00), Colombia v Ivory Coast
Match 22: at Natal (19h00-22h00), Japan v Greece

Tuesday, June 24
Match 37: at Cuiaba (16h00-20h00), Japan v Colombia
Match 38: at Fortaleza (17h00-20h00), Greece v Ivory Coast

GROUP D

Saturday, June 14
Match 7: at Fortaleza (16h00-19h00), Uruguay v Costa Rica
Match 8: at Manaus (21h00-01h00 15/06/14), England v Italy

GROUP A

- 1 BRA
- 2 CRO
- 3 MEX
- 4 CMR

GROUP E

- 1 SUI
- 2 ECU
- 3 FRA
- 4 HON

GROUP B

- 1 ESP
- 2 NED
- 3 CHI
- 4 AUS

GROUP F

- 1 ARG
- 2 BIH
- 3 IRN
- 4 NGA

GROUP C

- 1 COL
- 2 GRE
- 3 CIV
- 4 JPN

GROUP G

- 1 GER
- 2 POR
- 3 GHA
- 4 USA

GROUP D

- 1 URU
- 2 CRC
- 3 ENG
- 4 ITA

GROUP H

- 1 BEL
- 2 ALG
- 3 RUS
- 4 KOR

Match 14: at Natal (19h00-22h00), Ghana v USA

Saturday, June 21
Match 29: at Fortaleza (16h00-19h00), Germany v Ghana

Sunday, June 22
Match 30: at Manaus (15h00-19h00), USA v Portugal

Thursday, June 26
Match 45: at Recife (13h00-16h00), USA v Germany
Match 46: at Brasilia (13h00-16h00), Portugal v Ghana

GROUP H

Tuesday, June 17
Match 15: at Belo Horizonte (13h00-16h00), Belgium v Algeria
Match 16: at Cuiaba (18h00-22h00), Russia v South Korea

Sunday, June 22
Match 31: at Rio de Janeiro (19h00-22h00), Belgium v Russia
Match 32: at Porto Alegre (13h00-16h00), South Korea v Algeria

Thursday, June 26
Match 47: at Sao Paulo (17h00-20h00), South Korea v Belgium
Match 48: at Curitiba (17h00-20h00), Algeria v Russia

ROUND OF 16 info will follow on Monday.

Thursday, June 19

Match 23: at Sao Paulo (16h00-19h00), Uruguay v England

Friday, June 20

Match 24: at Recife (13h00-16h00), Italy v Costa Rica

Tuesday, June 24

Match 39: at Natal (13h00-16h00), Italy v Uruguay
Match 40: at Belo Horizonte (13h00-16h00), Costa Rica v England

GROUP E

Sunday, June 15
Match 9: at Brasilia (13h00-16h00), Switzerland v Ecuador
Match 10: at Porto Alegre (16h00-19h00), France v Honduras

Friday, June 20

Match 25: at Salvador (16h00-19h00), Switzerland v France
Match 26: at Curitiba (19h00-22h00), Honduras v Ecuador

Wednesday, June 25

Match 41: at Manaus (16h00-20h00), Honduras v Switzerland
Match 42: at Rio de Janeiro (17h00-20h00), Ecuador v France

GROUP F

Sunday, June 15
Match 11: at Rio de Janeiro (19h00-22h00), Argentina v Bosnia-Herzegovina

Monday, June 16

Match 12: at Curitiba (16h00-

19h00), Iran v Nigeria

Saturday, June 21

Match 27: at Belo Horizonte (13h00-16h00), Argentina v Iran
Match 28: at Cuiaba (18h00-22h00), Nigeria v Bosnia-Herzegovina

Wednesday, June 25

Match 43: at Porto Alegre (13h00-16h00), Nigeria v Argentina
Match 44: at Salvador (13h00-16h00), Bosnia-Herzegovina v Iran

GROUP G

Monday, June 16
Match 13: at Salvador (13h00-16h00), Germany v Portugal

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